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AlGaInP LIGHT EMITTING DIODE

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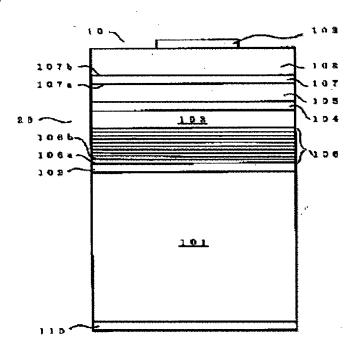
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Abstract of JP2001015803

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To manufacture a high-luminance AlGaInP LED having a window layer made of GaP stably by providing a buffer layer made of polycrystalline GaAsP between the window layer and an upper clad layer. SOLUTION: A buffer layer 107 made of an Mg-doped ptype GaAs1-xPx (0<=X<=1) having a gradient on a phosphorus composition (=X) is laminated on a p-type AlGaInP upper clad layer 105 forming the outermost layer of a laminate 20. Here, according to a crosssectional TEM method utilizing a transmission electronic microscope, the layer 107 is a polycrystal wherein a region whose thickness is, e.g. about 3 nm which is higher than its joint interface 107a with the layer 105 is composed mainly of single crystals, and the upper layer thereof is composed mainly of amorphous body. Further, a Zndoped, p-type GaP layer having a thickness of, e.g. about 25 &mu m is laminated as a window layer 108 by a hydride VPE method.



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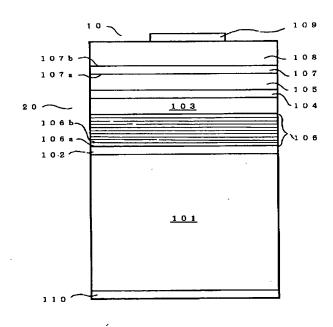
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(54) 【発明の名称】 A 1 G a I n P 発光ダイオード

(57)【要約】

【課題】AlGaInP発光ダイオードの、GaP窓層 の表面状態と結晶性を高め、高輝度化をはかる。

【解決手段】上部クラッド層上に、多結晶GaAs1-1 Px (0≤X≤1)からなる緩衝層を介して、GaP窓 層を形成する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】GaAs単結晶基板上に、それぞれ($A1_\chi Ga_{1-\chi}$) $_{\chi} In_{1-\chi} P$ ($0 \le X \le 1$ 、 $0 \le Y \le 1$)で表される下部クラッド層、発光層、及び上部クラッド層(各層間で混晶比X、Yが異なる場合を含む)と、GaPからなる窓(ウィンドウ)層とを備えた発光ダイオードにおいて、窓層と上部クラッド層との間に、多結晶の $GaAs_{1-\chi} P_{\chi}$ ($0 \le Z \le 1$)からなる緩衝層を有することを特徴とするAlGaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項2】Inの混晶比(1-Y)が、0.5であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載のAlGaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項3】緩衝層の層厚が、2nm以上で100nm 以下であることを特徴とする請求項1または請求項2に 記載のA1GaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項4】緩衝層のPの組成比(= Z)が、層厚方向で変化し、窓層側に向かって大きぐなっていることを特徴とする請求項1~3のいずれか1項に記載のA1GaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項5】緩衝層のPの組成比が、上部クラッド層側でZ=0であり、窓層側でZ=1であることを特徴とする請求項4に記載のA1GaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項6】緩衝層が、多結晶のGaPから構成されている、ことを特徴とする請求項1~3のいずれか1項に記載のAlGaInP発光ダイオード。

【請求項7】緩衝層の成膜温度が250℃以上で、窓層の成膜温度より低いことを特徴とする請求項1~6のいずれか1項に記載のAlGaInP発光ダイオード。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】GaP窓層とGaAs_{1-z}P_z 緩衝層を有する、高輝度AlGaInP発光ダイオード (LED) に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来のA1GaInPLEDにおいて、高輝度の発光を得る手段としてクラッド層の上に、発光部からの発光を効率的に外部へ取りだすための窓層(ウィンドウ層)を配置する技術が知られている(SPIE、Vol.3002(1997)、110~118頁参照)。窓層は発光に対して透明な、禁止帯幅の大きな半導体材料から構成する必要があり、砒化アルミニウム・ガリウム結晶(A1cGa1-cAs:0≦C≦1)から構成する例や(上記のAppl.Phys.Lett.,58(10)(1991)、1010~1012頁参照)、リン化ガリウム(GaP)から構成する例も知られている(J.Electron.Mater.,20(1991)、1125~1130頁参照)。【0003】また、特際平7~202264号公報に

【0003】また、特開平7-202264号公報には、p形砒化ガリウム(GaAs)とp形GaPとを重層させて窓層を構成する手段が開示されている。この方

【0004】上記の方法に於いて、p形GaAs層の層厚は約 0.01μ m \sim 0. 1μ mの範囲で、p形GaP層に比較して薄く設定されている。しかし、p形GaAs層の室温での禁止帯幅は、発光層を構成する($A1_{\alpha}Ga_{1-\alpha}$) $_{0.5}$ I $n_{0.5}$ P($0\le \alpha \le 1$)に比較して小さいため、発光層から出射される光に対して不透明な材料となる。従って、発光層からの光が吸収され、輝度が低下する。

【0005】また、GaPとGaAsはそもそも格子定数を異にするため、発光の吸収を低減するために薄層であるGaAs層では、この格子の不整合性を十分に緩和するには至らない。従って、GaP層の層厚を発光の取り出しに都合の良い5μm~15μmとすると(上記の特開平7-202264号参照)、GaP層の表面に突起が発生し、表面平坦性に優れる窓層が安定して得られなくなる。平坦性が損なわれた窓層の表面上には良好なオーミック(Ohmic)接触を発揮する電極が安定して形成できず、高輝度AlGaInPLEDの良品素子収率を悪化させる原因となっている。また、GaP膜に亀裂が生じ不連続な膜となる場合もあり、不連続の膜では通流抵抗が大となり、素子駆動電流が拡散できず、輝度は低下する。このため、高輝度のAlGaInPLEDを得るのに不都合となっている。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】窓層をp形GaAsとp形GaPの、異なるIII-V族化合物半導体結晶層から構成する従来技術では、(イ)第1の窓層を禁止帯幅の小さなGaAsとしているため、発光の吸収を十分に低減できない、(ロ)発光の吸収を低減するためにMOCVDによるGaAs層を薄層としているため、良好な表面状態を有するGaP層が成長できない。

【0007】本発明では、上記の問題を解決し、GaPからなる窓層を備えた高輝度のAlGaInPLEDを安定的に製造することを目的とする。

[0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者らは上記の問題点を解決すべく、鋭意努力し検討した結果、本発明に到達した。即ち、本発明は、[1] GaAs 単結晶基板上に、それぞれ(Al $_X$ Ga $_{1-X}$) $_Y$ In $_{1-Y}$ P(0 \le X \le 1、0 \le Y \le 1)で表される下部クラッド層、発光層、及び上部クラッド層(各層間で混晶比X、Yが異なる場合を含む)と、GaPからなる窓(ウィンドウ)層とを備えた発光ダイオードにおいて、窓層と上部クラッド層

との間に、多結晶の $GaAs_{1-z}P_z$ ($0 \le Z \le 1$) からなる緩衝層を有することを特徴とするAlGaInP発光ダイオード、[2]Inの混晶比 (1-Y) が、0. 5であることを特徴とする[1]に記載のAlGaInP発光ダイオード、[3] 緩衝層の層厚が、2nm以上で100nm以下であることを特徴とする[1] または[2]に記載のAlGaInP発光ダイオード、[4] 緩衝層のPO組成比 (=Z) が、層厚方向で変化し、窓層側に向かって大きくなっていることを特徴とする

[1]~[3]のいずれか1項に記載のAIGaInP発光ダイオード、[5]緩衝層のPの組成比が、上部クラッド層側でZ=0であり、窓層側でZ=1であることを特徴とする[4]に記載のAIGaInP発光ダイオード、[6]緩衝層が、多結晶のGaPから構成されている、ことを特徴とする[1]~[3]のいずれか1項に記載のAIGaInP発光ダイオード、[7]緩衝層の成膜温度が250℃以上で、窓層の成膜温度より低いことを特徴とする[1]~[6]のいずれか1項に記載のAIGaInP発光ダイオード、に関する。

[0009]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明は、GaAs 単結晶基板上に、それぞれ($Al_{\chi}Ga_{1-\chi}$) $_{\gamma}In_{1-\gamma}P$ ($0 \le X \le 1$ 、 $0 \le Y \le 1$)で表される下部クラッド層、発光層、及び上部クラッド層(各層間で混晶比X、Yが異なる場合を含む)と、GaPからなる窓層とを備えた発光ダイオードにおいて、窓層と上部クラッド層との間に、多結晶の $GaAs_{1-\chi}P_{\chi}$ ($0 \le Z \le 1$)からなる緩衝層を形成することを特徴とする。この場合、($Al_{\chi}Ga_{1-\chi}$) $_{\gamma}In_{1-\gamma}P$ 堆積層のInの混晶比(1-Y)が0.5であると、GaAs 単結晶基板との格子整合性が高まり、特に好ましい。

【0010】本発明に係わる緩衝層は、多結晶体で構成される。即ち、配向を互いに異にする単結晶の集合体、或いは単結晶と非晶質との集合体から構成する。特に、アズグローン (as-grown) 状態で、被着体との接合領域が単結晶体を主として含む領域からなり、その領域の上層部が主に非晶質体で構成されている多結晶体は、緩衝層として好適である。この場合の非晶質体は窓層と $(Al_XGa_{1-X})_YIn_{1-Y}P(0 \le X \le 1,0 \le Y \le 1)$ 系被堆積層との格子不整合を緩和する役目を担い、単結晶体は、高温環境下で非晶質体が結晶化して多結晶体となる際の結晶成長核として働く。

【0011】緩衝層の伝導形は、上部クラッド層等の被着体の伝導形、及び窓層の伝導形と同一とする。一例としては、 $p形(A1_XGa_{1-X})_{0.5}In_{0.5}P(0 \le X \le 1)$ からなる上部クラッド層上に設けられた、p形の多結晶GaPからなる緩衝層と、その上のp形の単結晶GaP窓層とからなる積層構造である。

【0012】緩衝層は、クラッド層或いは電流拡散層等の上に有機金属化学蒸着(MO-CVD)法やハロゲン

若しくはハイドライド気相成長(VPE)法などの手段により形成できる。緩衝層と窓層の成長手段は、同一でもまた異なっても差し支えはない。何れの成長手段においても、緩衝層は多結晶体から構成する必要があり、特に、緩衝層の結晶状態を上記の如くの好適な結晶構成とするには、成長温度を大凡、200℃以上、好ましくは250℃以上とする必要がある。この温度より低温では気相成長原料を充分に分解させる熱エネルギーが与えられないため、成膜が安定して実施できない。また、単結晶層が得られる温度以上、即ち、窓層の成長温度以上とすると、多結晶の結晶層が得られ難くなり好ましくない。

【0013】緩衝層の層厚は概して、2nm以上で100nm以下であるのが適する。比較的低温で形成する緩 衝層にあって、その層厚を100nmを越えるものとすると緩衝層表面は乱雑となる。このため、表面が平坦な 窓層が得られなくなり不都合である。2nm未満の極薄 膜では、被堆積面を均一に被覆できず、窓層に亀裂或い は間隙が発生し、素子特性が劣化する。

【0014】また、本発明の緩衝層を $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ ($0 \le X \le 1$)の組成勾配層から構成すると、更に、GaP窓層との格子不整合性を緩和するのに有効な緩衝層が構成できる。緩衝層の層厚が増加する方向にリン組成比(=X)を増加させた $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ 組成勾配層は、($A1_XGa_{1-X}$) $_YIn_{1-Y}P$ ($0 \le X \le 1$ 、 $0 \le Y$ ≤ 1)層上にGaP窓層を設ける場合に有効である。例えば、($A1_XGa_{1-X}$) $_{0.5}In_{0.5}P$ ($0 \le X \le 1$)層との接合界面でリンの組成比を0、即ち、GaAsとし、GaP窓層との接合界面でリン組成比を1、即ち、GaPとした $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ 組成勾配層は、被堆積層及びGaP窓層の双方に格子整合する緩衝層となる。組成勾配層を得るにな、層厚の増加方向に段階的にリン組成比を増加させたり、または線形的若しくは曲線的にリン組成比を増加させる手法によってできる。

【0015】更に、本発明では、緩衝層を多結晶のGa Pから構成すると亀裂や間隙の無い連続性に優れるGa P窓層が構成できる。窓層と緩衝層とが格子整合するか らである。

[0016]

【実施例】(実施例1)A1GaInP発光ダイオード 10を、図1の断面模式図に示す積層構造体20から構成した。

【0017】積層構造体20は、[110]方向に4°傾斜した珪素(Si)ドープn形 {001} - GaAs 単結晶基板101、Siドープn形GaAs緩衝層102、ブラッグ反射層106、Siドープn形 (Al_{0.7} Ga_{0.3})_{0.5} I n_{0.5} P下部クラッド層103、アンドープの(Al_{0.2}Ga_{0.8})_{0.5} I n_{0.5} P発光層104、及びマグネシウム (Mg)ドープp形 (Al_{0.7}Ga_{0.3})_{0.5} I n_{0.5} P上部クラッド層105とから構成

されている。各層 $102\sim105$ は、トリメチルアルミニウム((CH_3) $_3$ A1)、トリメチルガリウム((CH_3) $_3$ Ga)、トリメチルインジウム((CH_3) $_3$ In)をIII族構成元素の原料とし、ホスフィン(PH $_3$)をV族構成元素源とする減圧MO-VPE法により720℃で成膜した。

【0018】Siのドーピング源には、ジシラン(Si $_2H_6$)を使用した。GaAs緩衝層102のキャリア濃度は約2× 10^{18} c m $^{-3}$ に、また、層厚は約500 n m とした。n形下部クラッド層103のキャリヤ濃度は約2× 10^{18} c m $^{-3}$ とし、層厚は約2 μ mとした。発光層の104の層厚は約120 n mとし、キャリア濃度は約5× 10^{16} c m $^{-3}$ とした。p形上部クラッド層105は層厚約1 μ mとし、キャリア濃度は7× 10^{17} c m $^{-3}$ とした。p形ドーパントには、ビスシクロペンタジエルマグネシウム($(C_5H_5)_2$ Mg)を利用した。

【0019】ブラッグ反射層106は、A1組成比を 0.45とするSiドープn形 $A1_{0.45}$ G $a_{0.55}$ As層 106aと、A1組成比を 0.90とするSiドープn形 $A1_{0.90}$ G $a_{0.10}$ As層106bとを5周期、重層して構成した。 $A1_{0.45}$ G $a_{0.55}$ As層からなる第1のブラッグ反射層構成層106aの層厚は約42nmであり、また、 $A1_{0.90}$ G $a_{0.10}$ As層からなる第2のブラッグ反射層構成層106b0の層厚は約49nmとした。ブラッグ反射層106の構成層106a、106b0のキャリア濃度は双方共に約 1×10^{18} c m^{-3} とした。

【0020】MOCVD法による積層構造体20の成膜を終了した後、p形上部クラッド層105上に亜鉛(Zn)ドープp形GaPからなる緩衝層107を積層した。緩衝層107は、ガリウム(Ga)/ホスフィン(PH_3)/水素(H_2)反応系VPE法により成膜した。緩衝層107は480℃で形成し、その層厚は約20nmとした。透過電子顕微鏡(TEM)を利用した断面TEM法に依れば、緩衝層107は、上部クラッド層105と接合界面107aより上方の約3nmの厚さの領域が単結晶を主体として構成され、その上層が主に非晶質体を主体としてなす多結晶体であった。

【0021】次に、GaAs基板101の温度を760 ℃に上昇させ、同じく上記のVPE法により2nドープ p形GaP層を窓層108として積層した。窓層108 の層厚は約40μmとした。窓層108をなすp形Ga P層には亀裂等が認められず、また表面には突起が殆ど 無く略全面に亘り平坦な連続膜となった。断面TEM法 によれば、高温での窓層108の形成が終了した後で は、緩衝層107は、一部の微小領域に非晶質体を含む 単結晶体を主体とする多結晶層であり、窓層108は単 結晶であった。

【0022】窓層108の表面上に金(Au)・Zn合金からなるp形オーミック電極109を設けた。また、n形GaAs基板101の裏面にはAu・ゲルマニウム

(Ge)合金からなる n形オーミック電極110を設けてLED10を構成した。両オーミック電極109,110間に順方向に20ミリアンペア(mA)の電流を通流したところ、窓層108の略全面からほぼ均等な赤橙色の発光が得られた。分光器により測定された発光波長は約620nmであった。また、発光スペクトルの半値幅は約19nmであり、単色性に優れる発光が得られた。順方向電圧(@20mA)は約2.0ボルト(V)となった。また、発光輝度は約62ミリカンデラ(mcd)に達した。

【0023】(実施例2) 実施例1に記載の積層構造体20の最表層を構成するp形($A1_{0.7}Ga_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}In_{0.5}P$ 上部クラッド層105上に、リン組成(=X)に勾配を有するMgドープp形 $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ からなる緩衝層107を積層した。緩衝層107の成膜は、トリメチルガリウム/アルシン(AsH_3)/ホスフィン/水素反応系減圧MOCVD法に依った。成膜温度は約520℃とした。緩衝層107の層厚は約68nmとした。

【0024】緩衝層107を構成する $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ 層のリン組成(=X)は、p形上部クラッド層105との接合界面<math>108aでX=0とし(即ち、GaAsとし)、p形GaP窓層108との接合界面107bでX=1(即ち、GaP)となる様に線形的に増加させた。リン組成の勾配は、成膜期間中にアルシンの反応系への供給流量を経時的に減少させ、併行してホスフィンの流量を増加させることにより勾配を付した。

【0025】緩衝層107上には、上記のハイドライド VPE法に依り層厚を約25μmとするZnドープp形 GaP層を窓層108として積層した。窓層108を構 成するp形GaP層の成膜は720℃とした。

【0026】実施例1と同様にLEDに加工して特性を 測定した。順方向電流を20mAに設定した際に得られ る発光の波長は約620nmであり、発光スペクトルの 半値幅は約19nmであった。発光輝度は約58mcd に達した。また、Gap窓層108は、表面の平坦性に 優れるものとなったため、オーミック接触性は良好とな り、正常なpn接合特性が発揮された。20mA通流時 の順方向電圧は約2.1Vとなった。

【0027】(実施例3)図2に実施例3の積層構造の 断面模式図を示す。実施例1に記載の積層構造体20と 同様に積層構造体40を形成し、最表層を構成するp形 ($A1_{0.7}Ga_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}In_{0.5}P$ 上部クラッド層205上に、Mgドープp形GaPからなる緩衝層207を積 層した。緩衝層207の成膜は、トリメチルガリウム/ ホスフィン/水素反応系減圧MOCVD法に依った。成 膜温度は約550Cとした。緩衝層207の層厚は約4 0nmとした。

【0028】次に、基板201の温度を780℃に上昇させ、緩衝層207上に層厚を約2μmとするMgドー

プp形GaP層を窓層208の一構成層208aとして 重層させた。然る後、構成層208a上にGa/ホスフィン/水素反応系VPE法により、Znドープp形Ga P層を、窓層208を構成する別の構成層208bとして積層した。

【0029】実施例1と同様に積層構造体40にn形及びp形オーミック電極209,210を敷設してLED30となした。順方向電流を20mAに設定した際の順方向電圧は約1.9Vであった。逆方向電流を10μAとした時の逆方向電圧は10V以上となった。また、発光の中心波長は約618nmで、スペクトル半値幅は約17nmとなった。発光強度は約62mcdであった。

【0030】(比較例)・実施例1に記載の積層構造体2 0の最表層をなすp形上部クラッド層105上に、従来 技術に倣い、緩衝層を設けずに直接、Znドープp形G aP層を窓層として積層した。窓層は実施例1と同様に ハイドライドVPE法に依り、760℃で形成した。窓 層の層厚は約40μmとした。

【0031】窓層を構成するp形Ga P層の表面には亀裂の存在が視認された。断面TE M法による観察では、窓層をなすGa P と上部クラッド層をなす($A1_{0.7}Ga_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}$ $In_{0.5}$ P との格子の不整合に起因して窓層と上部クラッド層との接合界面は平坦ではなく乱雑であった。この接合界面の非平坦性に因り窓層の表面には多くの突起が出現し、その結果、窓層の表面は平坦性に欠けるものとなった。

【0032】このため、p形GaP窓層の表面上にp形オーミック電極の形成を試みたものの、接触抵抗が高く良好なオーミック特性が顕現され難かった。順方向電圧は約2.5~2.7Vに上昇した。発光の波長は約620nmから約630nmであったものの、発光スペクトルの半値幅は約25nmを越え、且つ不均一となった。発光強度は約15mcdであった。

[0033]

【発明の効果】本発明の緩衝層を設けることに依り、結晶性に優れるGaPからなる窓層を安定して形成でき、 高輝度のAIGaInPLEDが提供できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

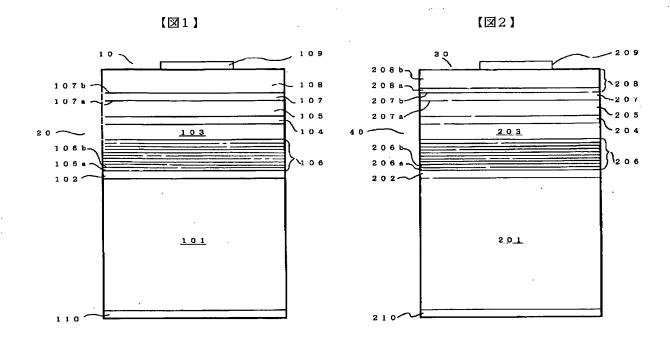
【図1】実施例1のLEDの断面構造を示す模式図であ

る。

【図2】実施例3のLEDの断面構造を示す模式図である。

【符号の説明】

- 10 LED
- 20 積層構造体
- 30 LED
- 40 積層構造体
- 101 GaAs基板
- 102 GaAs緩衝層
- 103 下部クラッド層
- 104 発光層
- 105 上部クラッド層
- 106 ブラッグ反射層
- 106a ブラッグ反射層構成層
- 106b ブラッグ反射層構成層
- 107 緩衝層
- 107a 緩衝層と上部クラッド層との接合界面
- 107b 緩衝層とGaP窓層との接合界面
- 108 窓層
- 109 p形電極
- 110 n形電極
- 201 GaAs基板
- 202 GaAs緩衝層
- 203 下部クラッド層
- 204 発光層
- 205 上部クラッド層
- 206 ブラッグ反射層
- 206a ブラッグ反射層構成層
- 206b ブラッグ反射層構成層
- 207 緩衝層
- 207a 緩衝層と上部クラッド層との接合界面
- 207b 緩衝層とGaP窓層との接合界面
- 208 窓層
- 208a 窓層構成層
- 208b 窓層構成層
- 209 p形電極
- 210 n形電極



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]A lower clad layer, a luminous layer, and an upper clad layer (a case where the mixed crystal ratios X and Y differ between each class is included) which are expressed with $_{Y}In_{1-Y}P$ (0<=X<=1, 0<=Y<=1) on a GaAs single crystal substrate, respectively (aluminum $_{X}Ga_{1-X}$).

A window (window) layer which consists of GaP(s).

It has a buffer layer which is the AlGaInP light emitting diode provided with the above, and consists of $GaAs_{1-Z}P_Z$ (0<=Z<=1) of polycrystal between a window layer and an upper clad layer.

[Claim 2]The AlGaInP light emitting diode according to claim 1, wherein a mixed crystal ratio (1-Y) of In is 0.5.

[Claim 3] The AlGaInP light emitting diode according to claim 1 or 2 with which thickness of a buffer layer is characterized by being 100 nm or less at not less than 2 nm.

[Claim 4]An AlGaInP light emitting diode given in any 1 paragraph of claims 1-3, wherein composition ratio (=Z) of P of a buffer layer changes in a thickness direction and is large toward the window layer side.

[Claim 5]The AlGaInP light emitting diode according to claim 4, wherein composition ratio of P of a buffer layer is Z= 0 in the upper clad layer side and is Z= 1 in the window layer side.

[Claim 6]An AlGaInP light emitting diode given in any 1 paragraph of claims 1-3 characterized by what a buffer layer comprises GaP of polycrystal for.

[Claim 7]An AlGaInP light emitting diode given in any 1 paragraph of claims 1-6 to which forming temperature of a buffer layer is characterized by being lower than forming temperature of a window layer above 250 **.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]It is related with the high-intensity AlGaInP light emitting diode (LED) which has a GaP window layer and a $GaAs_{1-Z}P_Z$ buffer layer.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]In the conventional AlGaInPLED, the art which arranges the window layer (window layer) for taking out luminescence from a light-emitting part to the exterior efficiently on a cladding layer as a means to obtain high-intensity luminescence is known (refer to SPIE, Vol.3002 (1997), and 110-118 pages). It is necessary to constitute a window layer from a big semiconductor material of a transparent band gap to luminescence. the example (above-mentioned Appl.Phys.Lett., and 58 (10) and (1991).) constituted from an aluminum-arsenide gallium crystal (aluminum $_{\rm C}$ Ga $_{
m 1-C}$ As:0<=C<=1) The example constituted from refer to the 1010-1012 page and gallium phosphide (GaP) is also known (J. refer to Electron.Mater., 20 (1991), and 1125-1130 pages). [0003]A means to make p form gallium arsenide (GaAs) and p form GaP stratify, and to constitute a window layer is indicated by JP,7-202264,A. In this method, p form GaAs layer on the upper clad layer which consists of p form (aluminum $_{\rm alpha}$ $_{\rm 0.5}$ $_{\rm 0.5}$ $_{\rm 0.5}$ $_{\rm 0.5}$ $_{\rm 0.5}$ (0<=alpha<=1), It grows up by an organic-metal-vapor-growth (MOCVD) method, and the p form GaP layer is formed by the hydride vapor-phase-epitaxy (HVPE) method. If p form GaAs layer is made to intervene on a p form (aluminum $_{\rm alpha}$ Ga $_{\rm 1-alpha}$) $_{\rm 0.5}$ In $_{\rm 0.5}$ P layer according to said gazette, it will be supposed that a p form GaP layer can deposit easily. [0004]In the above-mentioned method, the ranges of the thickness of p form GaAs layer are about 0.01 micrometer - 0.1 micrometer, and it is thinly set up as compared with the p form GaP layer. However, since it is small as compared with (aluminum alpha Ga 1-alpha) _{0.5}In_{0.5}P (0<=alpha<=1) which constitutes a luminous layer, the band gap in the room temperature of p form GaAs layer serves as an opaque material to the light emitted from a

luminous layer. Therefore, the light from a luminous layer is absorbed and luminosity falls. [0005]Since GaP and GaAs differ in a grating constant primarily, they do not fully come to ease the inconsistency of this lattice in the GaAs layer which is a thin layer in order to reduce absorption of luminescence. Therefore, if the thickness of a GaP layer shall be 5 micrometers - convenient 15 micrometers for extraction of luminescence (refer to above-mentioned JP,7-202264,A), a projection occurs on the surface of a GaP layer, and the window layer which is excellent in surface evenness will no longer be obtained by being stabilized. On the surface of the window layer where surface smoothness was spoiled, the electrode which demonstrates good ohmic (Ohmic) contact can be stabilized, and cannot form, but it has become the cause of worsening the excellent article element yield of high-intensity AlGaInPLED. A GaP film may be cracked and it may become a discontinuous film, and by a discontinuous film, conduction resistance becomes large, and element driving current cannot be diffused, but luminosity falls. For this reason, it is inconvenient although high-intensity AlGaInPLED is obtained.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]In the conventional technology which constitutes a window layer from a group-III-V-semiconducter crystal layer from which p form GaAs and p form GaP differ. (b) Since the GaAs layer by MOCVD is made into the thin layer in order to reduce the absorption of light from (**) which cannot fully reduce absorption of luminescence since the 1st window layer is set to small GaAs of a band gap, the GaP layer which has a good surface state cannot be grown up.

[0007]In this invention, the above-mentioned problem is solved and it aims at manufacturing stably high-intensity AlGaInPLED provided with the window layer which consists of GaP(s).

[8000]

[Means for Solving the Problem]That the above-mentioned problem should be solved, this invention persons reached this invention, as a result of trying hard wholeheartedly and inquiring. Namely, a lower clad layer as which this invention is expressed in $_{Y}$ In $_{1-Y}$ P (0<=X<=1, 0<=Y<=1) on [1] GaAs single crystal substrate, respectively (aluminum $_{X}$ Ga $_{1-X}$), In a light emitting diode provided with a luminous layer and an upper clad layer (a case where the mixed crystal ratios X and Y differ between each class is included), and a window (window) layer that consists of GaP(s), An AlGaInP light emitting diode having a buffer layer which consists of GaAs $_{1-Z}$ P $_{Z}$ (0<=Z<=1) of polycrystal between a window layer and an upper clad layer, [2] An AlGaInP light emitting diode given in [1], wherein a mixed crystal ratio (1-Y) of In is 0.5, [3] [1], wherein thickness of a buffer layer is 100 nm or less in not less than 2 nm, or an AlGaInP light emitting diode given in [2], [4] Composition ratio of P of an AlGaInP light emitting diode given in any 1 paragraph of - [3] and [1] [5] buffer layer, wherein composition ratio (=Z) of P of a buffer layer changes in a thickness direction and is large toward the window layer side is Z= 0 in the upper clad layer side, An AlGaInP light

emitting diode given in [4] being Z= 1 in the window layer side, [6] Forming temperature of an AlGaInP light emitting diode of a statement and [1] [7] buffer layer to which a buffer layer is characterized by what comprises GaP of polycrystal in any 1 paragraph of - [3] above 250 **. It is related with any 1 paragraph of [1] - [6] being lower than forming temperature of a window layer, without an AlGaInP light emitting diode of a statement. [0009]

[Embodiment of the Invention]It is the light emitting diode provided with the following, and the buffer layer which consists of GaAs_{1-Z}P_Z (0<=Z<=1) of polycrystal between a window layer and an upper clad layer is formed.

The lower clad layer, luminous layer, and upper clad layer (the case where the mixed crystal ratios X and Y differ between each class is included) which are expressed with $_{Y}In_{1-}_{Y}P$ (0<=X<=1, 0<=Y<=1) on a GaAs single crystal substrate, respectively (aluminum $_{X}Ga_{1-}_{X}$).

The window layer which consists of GaP(s).

In this case, lattice matching nature with a GaAs single crystal substrate increases that the mixed crystal ratio (1-Y) of In of $_{Y}$ (aluminum $_{X}$ Ga $_{1-X}$) In $_{1-Y}$ P sedimentary layers is 0.5, and it is especially desirable.

[0010]The buffer layer concerning this invention comprises the polycrystalline substance. That is, orientation consists of an aggregate of the single crystal in which it differs mutually, or a single crystal and the aggregate of being amorphous. Especially the polycrystalline substance in which a junction area with adherend consists of a field which mainly contains a single crystal body in the state of an AZUGU loan (as-grown), and the upper levels of the field mainly comprise amorphous bodies is preferred as a buffer layer, the amorphous bodies in this case -- a window layer and a (aluminum $_X$ Ga $_{1-X}$) $_Y$ In $_{1-Y}$ P (0<=X<=1,

0 <= Y <= 1) system -- the duty which eases lattice mismatching with sedimentary layers, [bear and] A single crystal body works as a crystal growth core at the time of amorphous bodies crystallizing under hot environments and becoming the polycrystalline substance. [0011]The conduction type of a buffer layer presupposes that it is the same as that of the conduction type of adherends, such as an upper clad layer, and the conduction type of a window layer. It is a laminated structure which consists of a buffer layer which consists of the polycrystal GaP of p form provided as an example on the upper clad layer which consists of p form (aluminum $_X$ Ga $_{1-X}$) $_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ P (0<=X<=1), and a single crystal GaP window layer of p form on it.

[0012]A buffer layer can be formed on a cladding layer or a current diffusion layer by the organometal chemistry vapor-depositing (MO-CVD) method, halogen or a hydride vapor-phase-epitaxy (VPE) method, or other means. Even when the growth means of a buffer layer and a window layer is the same, even if it differs again, there is no inconvenience. It is necessary to constitute a buffer layer from the polycrystalline substance, and also in which

growth means, in order to consider the crystallized state of a buffer layer as crystal composition suitable like the above especially, it needs to make about not less than 200 ** of growing temperature preferably not less than 250 **. Since the thermal energy into which a vapor-phase-epitaxy raw material is made to fully disassemble at low temperature from this temperature is not given, membrane formation can be stabilized and cannot carry out. If it is made beyond the temperature (i.e., more than the growing temperature of a window layer) from which a single crystal layer is obtained, it becomes and is not [that the crystal layer of polycrystal is hard to be obtained] desirable.

[0013]It is suitable that the thickness of a buffer layer is 100 nm or less in not less than 2 nm generally. It is in the buffer layer comparatively formed at low temperature, and about the thickness, if 100 nm shall be exceeded, the buffer layer surface will become disorderly. For this reason, the window layer where the surface is flat is no longer obtained, and it is inconvenient. In the ultra-thin film below 2 nm, a depositional surface cannot be covered uniformly, but a crack or a gap occurs in a window layer, and an element characteristic deteriorates.

[0014]If the buffer layer of this invention is constituted from a presentation inclination layer of GaAs $_{1-X}$ P $_X$ (0<=X<=1), a buffer layer still more effective in easing lattice mismatching nature with a GaP window layer can be constituted. The GaAs $_{1-X}$ P $_X$ presentation inclination layer to which the Lynn composition ratio (=X) was made to increase in the direction which the thickness of a buffer layer increases is effective when providing a GaP window layer on a $_Y$ (aluminum $_X$ Ga $_{1-X}$) In $_{1-Y}$ P (0<=X<=1, 0<=Y<=1) layer. for example, a joining interface with a $_{(aluminum}_X$ Ga $_{1-X}$)0.5 In $_{0.5}$ P (0<=X<=1) layer -- the composition ratio of Lynn -- 0 -- that

is, It is referred to as GaAs and the GaAs_{1-X}P_X presentation inclination layer which made Lynn composition ratio 1, i.e., GaP, by the joining interface with a GaP window layer turns into a buffer layer which carries out lattice matching to the both sides of sedimentary layers and a GaP window layer. In order to obtain a presentation inclination layer, the Lynn composition ratio is made to increase to the increasing direction of thickness gradually, or it can do with the technique to which the Lynn composition ratio is made to increase linearly or rounded.

[0015]If a buffer layer is constituted from GaP of polycrystal, the GaP window layer which is excellent in continuity without a crack or a gap can consist of this inventions. It is because a window layer and a buffer layer carry out lattice matching.
[0016]

[Example](Example 1) The AlGaInP light emitting diode 10 consisted of the laminated structure bodies 20 shown in the cross section of drawing 1.

[0017]The laminated structure body 20, [110] Silicon inclined 4 degrees in the direction. (Si) The dope n type {001}-GaAs single crystal substrate 101, Si-dope n type GaAs buffer layer 102, Bragg reflection layer 106, and Si-dope n type (aluminum $_{0.7}$ Ga $_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ P lower clad

layer 103 and undoping. (aluminum $_{0.2}$ Ga $_{0.8}$) It comprises the $_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ P luminous layer 104 and magnesium (Mg) dope p type (aluminum $_{0.7}$ Ga $_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ P upper clad layer 105. Each class 102-105 Trimethylaluminum (CH $_3$) ($_3$ aluminum), Trimethylgallium (CH $_3$) ($_3$ Ga) and trimethylindium (CH $_3$) ($_3$ In) were used as the raw material of an III fellows composing element, and membranes were formed at 720 ** by the decompression MO-VPE method which makes phosphine (PH $_3$) the source of V fellows composing element.

[0018]The disilane ($\mathrm{Si_2H_6}$) was used for the source of doping of Si. the carrier concentration of the GaAs buffer layer 102 -- about -- 2x10 $^{18}\mathrm{cm^{-3}}$ -- thickness could be about 500 nm. Carrier concentration of the n form lower clad layer 103 was made into abbreviation 2x10 $^{18}\mathrm{cm^{-3}}$, and thickness could be about 2 micrometers. The thickness of 104 of the luminous layer set to about 120 nm, and carrier concentration was made into abbreviation 5x10 $^{16}\mathrm{cm^{-3}}$. The p form upper clad layer 105 considered it as about 1 micrometer of thickness, and made carrier concentration 7x10 $^{17}\mathrm{cm^{-3}}$. Screw cyclo PENTAJIERU magnesium ($\mathrm{C_5H_5}$) ($_2\mathrm{Mg}$) was used for p form dopant.

[0019]Bragg reflection layer 106 stratified the Si-dope n type aluminum $_{0.45}$ Ga $_{0.55}$ As layer 106a which sets Al composition ratio to 0.45, and the Si-dope n type aluminum $_{0.90}$ Ga $_{0.10}$ As layer 106b which sets Al composition ratio to 0.90 five cycles, and constituted it. The thickness of the 1st Bragg reflection layer composition layer 106a that consists of an aluminum $_{0.45}$ Ga $_{0.55}$ As layer is about 42 nm, and the thickness of the 2nd Bragg reflection layer composition layer 106b that consists of an aluminum $_{0.90}$ Ga $_{0.10}$ As layer could be about 49 nm. Both sides made carrier concentration of the composition layers 106a and 106b of Bragg reflection layer 106 abbreviation 1x10 18 cm $^{-3}$.

[0020]After ending membrane formation of the laminated structure body 20 by the MOCVD method, the buffer layer 107 which consists of zinc (Zn) dope p type GaP on the p form upper clad layer 105 was laminated. The buffer layer 107 formed membranes by gallium (Ga) / phosphine (PH₃) / the hydrogen (H₂) system-of-reaction VPE method. The buffer layer 107 was formed at 480 **, and the thickness set it to about 20 nm. When depending on the section TEM method for having used the transmission electron microscope (TEM), the buffer layer 107 was the polycrystalline substance in which a field with an upper thickness of about 3 nm comprises the upper clad layer 105 and the joining interface 107a considering a single crystal as a subject, and the upper layer mainly makes amorphous bodies as a subject.

[0021]Next, the temperature of GaAs substrate 101 was raised at 760 **, and the Zn dope p type GaP layer was laminated as the window layer 108 by the same above-mentioned VPE method. The thickness of the window layer 108 could be about 40 micrometers. A crack

etc. are not observed in the p form GaP layer which makes the window layer 108, and there is almost no projection in the surface, the approximately whole area was covered, and it became a flat continuation film. According to the section TEM method, after formation of the window layer 108 in an elevated temperature was completed, the buffer layer 107 was a polycrystalline layer which makes a subject the single crystal body which contains amorphous bodies in some infinitesimal areas, and the window layer 108 was a single crystal.

[0022]The p form ohmic electrode 109 which consists of golden (Au) and a Zn alloy was formed on the surface of the window layer 108. The n form ohmic electrode 110 which consists of an Au and germanium (germanium) alloy was formed in the rear face of n form GaAs substrate 101, and LED10 was constituted. When conduction of the current of 20 mA (mA) was carried out among both the ohmic electrodes 109,110 in the forward direction, luminescence of the almost equivalent red lamp color was obtained from the approximately whole area of the window layer 108. The luminous wavelength measured by the spectroscope was about 620 nm. The half breadth of an emission spectrum is about 19 nm, and luminescence which is excellent in monochromaticity was obtained. Forward voltage (@20mA) became about 2.0-volt (V). Light emitting luminance amounted to an about 62-mcd (mcd).

[0023](Example 2) On the p form (aluminum $_{0.7}$ Ga $_{0.3}$) $_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ P upper clad layer 105 which constitutes the outermost layer of the laminated structure body 20 of a statement in the Example 1, The buffer layer 107 which becomes the Lynn presentation (=X) from Mg-dope p type GaAs $_{1-X}$ P $_X$ which has inclination was laminated. Membrane formation of the buffer layer 107 depended on trimethylgallium / arsine (AsH $_3$) / phosphine / the hydrogen reaction system decompression MOCVD method. Forming temperature was about 520 **. The thickness of the buffer layer 107 could be about 68 nm.

[0024]The Lynn presentation (=X) of the $GaAs_{1-X}P_X$ layer which constitutes the buffer layer 107, it was referred to as X= 0 by the joining interface 108a with the p form upper clad layer 105 (namely, -- referred to as GaAs), and was made to increase linearly so that it may be set to X= 1 (namely, GaP) by the joining interface 107b with the p form GaP window layer 108 The inclination of the Lynn presentation attached inclination by decreasing temporally the supply flow rate to the system of reaction of an arsine, and making the flow of phosphine increase during the membrane formation.

[0025]On the buffer layer 107, the Zn dope p type GaP layer which depends on the above-mentioned hydride VPE method, and sets thickness to about 25 micrometers was laminated as the window layer 108. Membrane formation of the p form GaP layer which constitutes the window layer 108 could be 720 **.

[0026]It was processed into LED like Example 1, and the characteristic was measured. The wavelength of luminescence obtained when forward current is set as 20 mA was about 620 nm, and the half breadth of the emission spectrum was about 19 nm. Light emitting

luminance reached about 58 mcd(s). Since the Gap window layer 108 became what is excellent in surface surface smoothness, ohmic contact nature became good and the normal pn junction characteristic was demonstrated. The forward voltage at the time of 20-mA conduction was set to about 2.1 v.

[0027](Example 3) The cross section of the laminated structure of Example 3 is shown in drawing 2. The laminated structure body 40 as well as the laminated structure body 20 of a statement was formed in Example 1, and the buffer layer 207 which consists of Mg-dope p type GaP on the p form (aluminum_{0.7}Ga_{0.3}) _{0.5}In_{0.5}P upper clad layer 205 which constitutes the outermost layer was laminated. Membrane formation of the buffer layer 207 depended on trimethylgallium / phosphine / the hydrogen reaction system decompression MOCVD method. Forming temperature was about 550 **. The thickness of the buffer layer 207 could be about 40 nm.

[0028]Next, the temperature of the substrate 201 was raised at 780 **, and the Mg-dope p type GaP layer which sets thickness to about 2 micrometers on the buffer layer 207 was made to stratify as the 1 composition layer 208a of the window layer 208. The appropriate back laminated the Zn dope p type GaP layer by Ga / phosphine / the hydrogen reaction system VPE method on the composition layer 208a as another composition layer 208b which constitutes the window layer 208.

[0029]n form and the p form ohmic electrode 209,210 were constructed to the laminated structure body 40 like Example 1, and it made with LED30. The forward voltage at the time of setting forward current as 20 mA was about 1.9v. When the reverse current was set to 10microA, reverse voltage became more than 10V. The center wavelength of luminescence is about 618 nm, and spectral half-width was set to about 17 nm. Luminescence intensity was about 62 mcd(s).

[0030](Comparative example) The Zn dope p type GaP layer was directly laminated as a window layer, without imitating conventional technology and providing a buffer layer on the p form upper clad layer 105 which makes the outermost layer of the laminated structure body 20 of a statement in the Example 1. The window layer depended on the hydride VPE method like Example 1, and was formed at 760 **. The thickness of the window layer could be about 40 micrometers.

[0031]Existence of a crack was recognized visually by the surface of the p form GaP layer which constitutes a window layer. In observation by the section TEM method, it originated in the mismatching of the lattice of GaP which makes a window layer, and $_{0.5} \ln_{0.5} P$ which makes an upper clad layer (aluminum $_{0.7} Ga_{0.3}$), and the joining interface of a window layer and an upper clad layer was not flat, and was disorderly. It was based on the non-surface smoothness of this joining interface, many projections appeared on the surface of the window layer, and, as a result, the surface of the window layer became what lacks in surface smoothness.

[0032] For this reason, although formation of p form ohmic electrode was tried on the

surface of a p form GaP window layer, the ohmic characteristic that contact resistance is high and good did not manifest itself easily. Forward voltage rose to V [about 2.5 to 2.7]. Although the wavelength of luminescence was about 620 nm to about 630 nm, the half breadth of the emission spectrum exceeded about 25 nm, and became uneven. Luminescence intensity was about 15 mcd(s). [0033]

[Effect of the Invention]It can depend on providing the buffer layer of this invention, and it is stabilized, the window layer which consists of GaP which is excellent in crystallinity can be formed, and high-intensity AlGaInPLED can be provided.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]It is a mimetic diagram showing the section structure of LED of Example 1.

[Drawing 2]It is a mimetic diagram showing the section structure of LED of Example 3.

[Description of Notations]

10 LED

20 Laminated structure body

30 LED

40 Laminated structure body

101 GaAs substrate

102 GaAs buffer layer

103 Lower clad layer

104 Luminous layer

105 Upper clad layer

106 Bragg reflection layer

106a Bragg reflection layer composition layer

106b Bragg reflection layer composition layer

107 Buffer layer

107a The joining interface of a buffer layer and an upper clad layer

107b The joining interface of a buffer layer and a GaP window layer

108 Window layer

109 p form electrode

110 n form electrode

201 GaAs substrate

202 GaAs buffer layer

203 Lower clad layer

204 Luminous layer

205 Upper clad layer

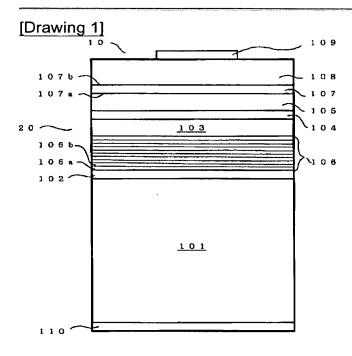
206 Bragg reflection layer

206a Bragg reflection layer composition layer 206b Bragg reflection layer composition layer 207 Buffer layer 207a The joining interface of a buffer layer and an upper clad layer 207b The joining interface of a buffer layer and a GaP window layer 208 Window layer 208a Window layer composition layer 208b Window layer composition layer 209 p form electrode 210 n form electrode

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DRAWINGS



[Drawing 2]

